

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01

IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00 (ISO)W
----- 113794

R 271307Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5010

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8208

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PLO, LE

SUBJECT: ARAFAT ADDRESSES LEBANESE PEOPLE

REFC BEIRUT 8149

1. STATEMENT BY YASSIR 'ARAFAT, CHAIRMAN OF PLO EX COMM,
EXPRESSING PLO'S RESPECT FOR LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND DIS
ASSOCIATING PLO FROM ANY LEBABESE POLITICAL PARTY, FACTION,
OR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY WAS BROADCAST BY LEBABESE RADIO
AND TELEVISION BEGINNING LATE JUNE 25 (FBIS JN260935). STATE
MENT, WHICH DID NOT RPT NOT LAY BLAME FOR RECENT DISORDERS
HERE ON ANY LEBANES GROUP, WAS REGARDED BY MANY LEBABESE
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OBSERVERS AS CONSTRUCTIVE ACT, WHICH MIGHT CLEAR SOME

OBSTACLES FROM PATH OF PREMIER-DESIGNATE RASHID KARAME
IN HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW CABINET.

2. COMMENT 'ARAFAT'S DECLARATION WHICH WAS ACTUALLY
DRAFTED BY WALID KHALIDI GREW OUT OF 'ARAFAT'S MEETING
JUNE 23 WITH PRES FRANGIE (FBIS JN231303 AND JN230940).
COUNSELOR OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY (PROTEST). WHOSE AMBASSADOR
AS WELL AS SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON ATTENDED
SESSION, TOLD EMBASSOFF EGYPTIANS WERE REASONABLY PLESED WITH
FRANGIE-'ARAFAT TALKS. HE DID INDICATE THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE
VERY FRANK AND THAT THERE SOME ANGRY EXCHANGES, WHICH
HE PASSED OFF AS NATURAL IN A SESSION OF FOUR TO SIX HOURS
DURATION. EGYPTIAN'S REMARKS SQUARE WITH OTHER UNOFFICIAL REPORTS
OF PROCEEDINGS WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED. THERE IS GENERAL CON-
SENSUS THAT FRANGIE WAS VERY TOUGH AND PRESENTED 'ARAFAT
WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF ALLEGED PALESTINIANS EXCESSES.
ACCORDING TO SEVERAL ACCOUNTS, FRANGIE BORE DOWN HARD ON
ACTIVITIES OF PALESTINIAN "REJECTION" FRONT AND TOLD '
ARAFAT THAT IF HE ('ARAFAT) WANTS TO BE TREATED AS LEADER OF
PALESTINIANS, HE MUST PUT HIS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. MEETING APPARENTLY
ENDED ON MORE POSITIVE NOTE WITH AGREEMENT THAT 'ARAFAT WOULD
ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT MAKING IT CLEAR THAT PLO WAS NOT RPT
NOT PARTICIPANT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESSES OF LEBANON.

3. IT SEEMS PROBABLE TO US, IN VIEW OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOP
MENTS ON THE GROUND, THAT SOME CONCERTED UNDERSTANDING WAS
REACHED BETWEEN FRANGIE AND 'ARAFAT (POSSIBLY WITH THE PRODDING
OF THOSE PRESENT). WITHIN HOURS OF THE JUNE 23 MEETING, LEB
ANESE SECURITY FORCES MOVED STRONGLY AGAINST PROVOCATEURS
(SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS "REJECTIONIST" PALESTINIANS AND
LEBANESE LEFTIST). AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, 'ARAFAT
HAS INTERPOSED NOT RPT NO OBJECTION TO THSES OPERATIONS AND
NORMAL CONTACT AND COOPERATION (E. G. JOINT PATROLS) HAS
BEEN MAINTAINED BETWEEN GOL AND PLO LEADERSHIPS. AS
WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED, 'ARAFAT AND HIS COHORTS
WOULD LOSE LITTLE SLEEP OVER DESTRUCTION OR WEAKING OF HIS
"REJECTIONIST " RIVALS, IF OBJECTION CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED
IN WAY THAT WILL NOT EXPOSE HIM TO CHARGE OF FRATICIDE IN THE
FACE OF THE ENEMY. OUR SUSPICION, THEREFORE, IS THAT 'ARAFAT
AGREED ON JUNE 23 TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT DISTANCING HIM
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SELF AND PLO FROM LEBANES INTERNAL POLITICAL WRANGLING AND
ALSO TO ADOPT NEUTRAL POSTURE AS LEBANESE SECURITY
FORCES MOVED AGAINST TROUBLEMAKERS.

4. WE HAVE STILL RPT NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM ASSERTIONS
FROM GOL SOURCES THAT FATAH FORCES HAVE JOINED GOL UNITS
IN COMBATTING INSURGENTS (PARA5. REFTL) AND CONTINUE TO HAVE
STRONG DOUBTS THAT REPORTS ARE ACCURATE AS STATED. THROUGH

MORNING OF JUNE 27, WE HAVE RELIABLE INDICATIONS THAT BOTH FATAH AND SA'QA FORCES REFRAINING FROM ANY PARTICIPATION IN WIDENING FRAY. IF OUR SURMISE RE 'ARAFAT'S POSITION IN JUNE 23 MEETING IS VALID, WE SEE TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR INSISTENCE OF SOME GOL OFFICIAL THAT FATAH IS ON GOL SIDE: (A) FATAH UNITS, UNDER CONTROL OF 'ARAFAT, MAINTAINING STRICT NEUTRALITY IN CLASHES ON BASIS 'ARAFAT UNDERSTANDING WITH FRANGIE AND THEREBY, IN EFFECT, FAVORING GOL SECURITY FORCES; AND/OR (B) PERSONNEL FROM FATAH (AS WELL AS SOME OTHER FED-AYEEN GROUPS) CONTINUING PARTICIPATE WITH GOL SECURITY FORCES IN JOINT PATROLS SOME OF WHICH MAY HAVE COME UNDER FIRE FROM SNIPERS AND BEEN FORCED TO REPLY IN KIND. WHATEVER THE EXTENT OF FATAH INVOLVEMENT, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT "REJECTIONISTS" HAVE THUS FAR REGARDED 'ARAFAT AS ALYING HIMSELF WITH GOL: FIRING BY "REJECTIONIST/LEFTIST INSURGENTS" WAS GREATLY INTENSIFIED NIGHT JUNE 25/26 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BROADCAST OF 'ARAFAT'S STATEMENT, AS BAGHDAD INN (INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH) REPORTED (FBIS JN260954Y).

5. NATURE OF CURRENT FIGHTING AND ITS LIMITATION SO FAR TO BEIRUT SUBURBS HAVE ASSISTED 'ARAFAT IN HIS APPARENT DETERMINATION TO OBSERVE FORM OF BENIGN NEUTRALITY. SHOULD CLASHES, HOWEVER, SPREAD TO EMBRACE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS OR APPEAR TO THREATEN PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY, 'ARAFAT WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONTINUE TO STAND ASIDE.
GODLEY

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